

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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India Launches Online Plant Quarantine Information System

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

In February 2011, the Ministry of Agriculture Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage unveiled the new online Plant Quarantine Information System (PQIS). The PQIS facilitates the application process for import permits and import release orders. Exporters are now also able to apply online for phyto-sanitary certificates.

General Information:

Background:

The Ministry of Agriculture Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage (D&PPQS) is India's plant protection organization charged with:

- Enforcing Plant Quarantine Regulations issued under the 1914 Destructive Insects & Pests Act, as amended, to prevent the introduction and spread of exotic pests;
- Implementing the provisions of the 1968 Insecticides Act and rules to control the use of pesticides;
- Fulfilling international commitments and obligations on pest control and phytosanitary measures;
- Introducing innovative plant protection technologies such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices;
- Imparting training in areas of plant protection technology, pesticide quality testing, pesticide residue analysis etc. ;
- Coordinating with State and Union Territory Governments on all matters relating to plant protection.

The Plant Protection Adviser to the Government of India heads the Directorate of Plant Protection and Quarantine Station, which is located in the Faridabad district of Haryana state. The Directorate implements five central sector schemes in the area of plant protection, expansion of plant quarantine facilities, integrated pest management programs, implementation of Insecticide Act, locust control, and training programs. There are five regional plant quarantine stations at Amritsar, Kolkata, Chennai, New Delhi and Mumbai, and 21 minor PQ stations operating at various land, sea and air ports of entry.

Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003

India's plant quarantine regulations are formally under the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914. The 2003 Order, in effect since January 1, 2004, stipulates that "no consignment of plants and plant products and other regulated articles (hereinafter referred to as 'consignments') shall be imported into India without a valid permit issued under this Order."

http://plantquarantineindia.nic.in/pdf/files/Consolidated_Version_PQ_Order_2003-upto_4th_amendment_2008.pdf

In February 2011, the GOI Ministry of Agriculture D&PPQS introduced an online Plant Quarantine Information System (PQIS). The PQIS was launched with the objective of modernizing the application process for import permits, import release orders and phyto-sanitary certificates. With the PQIS now in place, importers can apply for import permits online. Exporters are also able to submit applications for phyto-sanitary certificates. The PQIS enables exporters and importers to verify status, and access application history online.

As the GOI Ministry of Agriculture is in the process of transitioning to the online system, the D&PPQS is still accepting hard copy applications. Eventually, the online application process will become mandatory. Further information on PQIS online registration system is available at:

http://plantquarantineindia.nic.in/pdf/files/PQISUserManual_NIC.pdf

Further information is also available on the D&PPQS website: <http://plantquarantineindia.nic.in/>